

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### **Luhr-Jensen & Sons Inc.**

#### **Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership**

#### **Luhr Jensen & Sons Creates A Safer Workplace For Employees**

##### **Client Profile:**

Luhr Jensen & Sons, Inc., founded in 1936, is a manufacturer of fishing tackle and home smoke curing equipment located in Hood River, Oregon. The company has 310 employees.

##### **Situation:**

Luhr Jensen wanted to replace a manual process with a machine, thereby reducing the ergonomic strain on its employees and creating healthier working conditions. The company worked with the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to obtain a grant from the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA). With the grant monies, the company planned to develop a new process for closing rings and welding the joint on a part used to join components.

##### **Solution:**

OMEP continued to work with the company as grant manager, a role that included developing specs, acquiring the machinery, and managing grant-related paperwork (ergonomic, budget, progress, and dissemination reports). OMEP helped Luhr Jensen obtain a custom-designed production machine that met the grant requirements, and assembled a dissemination package for OR-OSHA detailing the solution and its benefits to the company. Not only does Luhr Jensen's new machine remove the ergonomic hazards from the operation, but it also helps to improve product quality and productivity.

##### **Results:**

Obtained a machine that automates a manual process to improve worker ergonomics and safety.

Improved product quality and employee productivity.

Published machine specs and ergonomic evaluations on public OR-OSHA website.

Featured as a success story in the local Hood River newspaper highlighting the grant program.

##### **Testimonial:**

"The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership was invaluable to assist Luhr Jensen to design, coordinate, and implement our Weld Ring Project. The result was a custom machine that did the job on time and under budget. Thanks OMEP!"

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David Lind, Engineering Manager